

Ioana is raising her seven children alone, after divorcing her violent husband a few years ago, because he repeatedly abused the children. Their only income is the meagre child benefit she receives from the Romanian government.

As a single parent, she is unable to cover all the children's needs. However, as she recently shared, she wholeheartedly believes God will take care of them, "There were days when I only had bread to give to my children, and this was because God provided it for us. Otherwise, we would have had nothing to eat. I am so happy and grateful for everything we now receive as part of Mission Without Border's Family-to-Family program. We know that God takes care of us and will never let us down. I remember one night when I didn't have anything for the children to eat. I told them that we would receive something to eat by the following morning and I would have something to put in their lunch boxes for school. After they went to bed, I fell on my knees, cried my heart out and prayed. Finally, I fell asleep. The next morning, the Mission Without Border's Coordinator came to visit us and offered us a food parcel. It was amazing! It is wonderful, but also

tough, to live by faith! We have many continuing needs, but we can truly see how God takes care of our needs one by one. Regular parcels from Mission Without Borders have been a great blessing and receiving a washing machine and a refrigerator from Mission Without Borders was another miracle. The whole family had been praying for these items and we received this double blessing on the one day! I am so happy that God is taking care of our lives and does miracles every day!"



The Danciu Turcu family

“...we can truly see how God takes care of our needs one by one.”



Delivering the washing machine by sled

Having a washing machine and a refrigerator are priorities for most families, especially large ones. The children have seen their mother struggle and are happy these concrete practical needs have now been met. Iosif (16) shared, "We used to store the food outside in a box but we had to watch over it, because the cats always came to steal the contents. We are all very happy we have a fridge now! We are also happy that our mum doesn't have the back pains she used to get every day because she was washing our clothes by hand. We've been praying a lot for a fridge and a washing machine. God answered our prayers!"

Indeed, God takes care of His children and gives us reasons to be joyful every day. Thank you for your support

of families, like the Danciu family of Romania. Ioana never wanted to be a single Mum caring for a large number of children on her own. We are glad we are now able to make a regular difference to their lives.



The new fridge means food is now safe from the outside cats!

**Every time we visit the Kullafi family of Albania, we are met at the door by Ervin and Elida.** Their beautiful smiles light up their faces as they greet us warmly and invite us into their humble home. The counselling visits, suggestions, material and spiritual aid provided by the Mission Without Borders Albania coordinators have always brought them joy and peace. Despite the struggles that get in their way, they continue to trust in the Lord for what they need each day.

Their parents, Hamdi and Lavdie are both disabled. Hamdi has an atrophied right leg, struggles to walk with a stick and can no longer earn a living for his family. Lavdie's right hand is paralysed which makes performing many tasks difficult. While many people around the Kullafi family are facing not only poverty, but spiritual emptiness and a loss of hope for the future, this isn't the case for the Kullafi family. Although challenges, illness, disabilities and their struggle to provide the most basic needs could overwhelm them, the Kullafi parents are motivated and believe God will meet their needs. Lavdie said that although performing her duties as wife and mother can be difficult with her paralysed hand and poor resources, she is strong willed and manages very well to provide the best possible home for her family.



*Elida and Ervin*



*The Kullafi family of Albania*

Both Ervin and Elida attend school. Although we might think this is a given, for the poorest of the poor, education is often abandoned as being unnecessary or unattainable because of the related expenses or distance to school. Ervin is in 5th grade and Elida is in 3rd grade. They are both achieving good grades. Their difficult life has taught them to find ways of overcoming their difficulties. *"I want to become a doctor",* Ervin said, *"However, to realise this, I have to study hard".* Elida dreams of being a teacher, as she wants to teach the next generation. Hamdi and Lavdie believe the spiritual, emotional, educational and material support provided by the Family-to-Family program has helped them concentrate on their children's education. *"We support their hard work and often remind our children that someone who gets a good education will have a secure future. We know it opens doors to new opportunities. We only completed a few years of education, because we lived in a small village where educational opportunities did not extend past the few years of compulsory education. Now, we realise*

*the importance of education. Despite the fact that sending Ervin and Elida costs a lot of money, more than we can afford, we are doing our best. Paying school fees is one thing, but on top of this we must provide all school supplies, text books, clothes and shoes for them to be able to attend",* shared Lavdie. Continuing in a low voice, *"So that is why we are so thankful Mission Without Borders is able to help us provide everything they need to access this educational opportunity."*

The Kullafi family is open to the Gospel and Ervin and Elida actively participate in the Christian ministry opportunities. They have completed the Bible Correspondence Course and really enjoy the Bible lessons. They know how to pray, but are rather shy. They now have their own Children's Bibles and love reading them. *"I read one story every day,"* said Elida.

Ervin and Elida are lovely, sociable children. They have lots of friends. Ervin likes to play football on the beach and Elida enjoys playing with dolls with her friends. They are well behaved, obedient, and help Mum with chores and keeping their home clean. Ervin and Elida are really grateful to their parents for the love, care and dedication they show them. Hamdi and Lavdie believe their challenges are only making them stronger. *"We are happy our children are on a good path; their progress is very promising. We keep praying and we are never without hope, because God takes care of us in spite of everything. The future is in His hands."*

## Ethnic minority families often struggle to survive in our field countries

For the Roma communities of our field countries, it is a battle for survival. Insufficient and inconsistent incomes prevent families from having adequate housing, nutrition and healthcare. The inability to buy food is often stated as the biggest problem



Lindita preparing lunch

for the poor families. Through deliveries of food, hygienic supplies, medication, counselling and advice, Mission Without Borders meets basic health and nutritional needs, which lead families toward better living conditions and a better way of life.

The Jorgo family is a Roma family that is beginning to change. Lindita smiles while talking to the Family-to-Family coordinator. Her sons do, too. The frequent visits and the topics discussed are welcome by all members of the family. Thanks to these discussions and the material support offered, their lives have begun to be transformed. They also take better care of themselves. Their small home is more organised now. Lindita shows a greater level of care for her children and herself. Everything is clean. Some years ago, it was hard to even enter the house due to the bad, permeating smells.

Under communism, the Roma people of Albania enjoyed the same access to housing, social services and employment as other Albanians. The end of communist regime marked the beginning of the Roma's precipitous slide into extreme poverty. Discrimination has played a central part in their lack of recognition and acceptance. Nutrition and healthcare are inadequate within their communities and a lack of income frequently makes it difficult for them to afford medication.

*"There were often days when my children and I went to bed hungry. I couldn't afford to buy food for them. When my children were ill, I couldn't do anything. I couldn't afford to pay for medication for them and the health facilities open to us as Roma are very poor. If you don't have money, you don't have anything. But this has changed a lot, because there are people that care about us and I feel blessed. My youngest children have food, clothes and receive healthcare. If they are ill, I know they will receive medical treatment. I remember we used to sleep together on the floor, but when we became part of Mission Without Border's Family-to-Family program, we received sofas to sit and sleep on. It was a big surprise, the first of many. It showed us that we hadn't been left alone in our misery. I have been taught a lot of things; how to cook and care for my children, and I am really grateful."*

Before enrolment into our F2F program, Lindita and her children often had to beg on the streets of the city, but this has changed. *"I understand now that although it is hard and often times disappointing when I don't secure a job, it is better to look for a job than to beg. After talking to you, I realised that we had to work, but it is so difficult. We collect cans to earn some money. It is very hard to face daily life, but I'm not alone in this battle. We receive food, hygienic items and clothes regularly. When I feel hopeless, I know that your door is open to me. Thanks to you, we feel accepted and integrated into the community."*



We love visitors!

Please be inspired that your support of Mission Without Borders is making a difference to thousands of families. Your gift this month will enable our field countries to meet the ongoing as well as Urgent Needs that overwhelm families. Over and above a one-off gift this month, if you can, we would love to increase the numbers of families sponsored by Australians. We find 4 sponsors for each family at \$35/month - this enables us to provide for their ongoing, comprehensive Spiritual, Emotional, Educational and Material needs. We have many families waiting for sponsors now and so many others desperately hoping they can move from the waiting list to the recipient list in each field country. I know our recent Sponsor Tour was confirmation change and self-sufficiency do happen. Some families face more hurdles than offers, but what a victorious day it is when families are able to say, we are now ready to walk on our own! Please contact us if you are interested in starting that journey of sponsoring a family, or can afford to sponsor an additional family. You can also visit our website for a short list of families waiting for sponsorship now ([www.mwb.org.au](http://www.mwb.org.au))



The Jorgo family

# 'Gift in Kind – Operation Cover Up' Update

With six containers sent from Sydney and Melbourne so far this year, our 'Gift in Kind' ministry is busy and making a great impact at keeping the poor of Eastern Europe warm. We know the knitters are now working furiously with the cooler weather – we look forward to seeing your wonderful items soon!

There continues to be discussion about sewing a warm backing onto blankets. **It is not an obligatory requirement for all blankets donated to us to have a backing sewn onto them.** If you can, it would be appreciated, but our field countries love to receive all our blankets, so keep them coming. If you are a sewer, or know of one, and would like to be involved in sewing on backings, that would be great. We know some are sewers, some are knitters, and so together we can do our best to keep the poor warm!

Please be encouraged by some thanks we received recently:

**Chisinau Children's Home:** *"We want to express our thanks and gratitude for your parental care and the beautiful blankets you gave us. We admire you; magnanimous and generous people, who are always close to us in joy and in trouble for the provided help to our children. The children absolutely loved the blankets!"*

*"My name is Augustin Lingurar. I live in Chiesd town and am a member of the church there. I would like to thank you for the wonderful, beautiful blankets you sent us! Here it is very cold and the frost blankets the ground for months. I know they will make surviving the cold weather easier. Thank you!"*

**Crihana Veche Children's Home:** *"Please accept our sincere thanks for the items for the sewing lessons: the threads, needles and material. They have inspired the children to learn new skills. Thank you for thinking of us!"*



**As companies are providing large quantities of excess stock, for individuals we are restricting donations to:**

**Knitted, Crocheted and handmade items:**

- **Blankets** – large and small.
- **Jumpers** – the older children, teenagers and adults are in greatest need.
- **Scarves, beanies, and bed socks**
- **Knitted Teddy Bears**

- **Patchwork quilts**
- **All items for sewing, embroidery, knitting and craft activities** - material, wool, needles etc.

**ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW (CUSTOMS REGULATIONS WE MUST ADHERE TO)!**

\*\*\*Please note, we are not able to accept the tiny sleeveless jumpers known as 'Aids Baby Jumpers'.

## COORDINATORS AND COLLECTION POINTS

Please contact our office, or your nearest collection point listed below, to organise getting your donated goods to us in Sydney or Melbourne.

God bless,

*Michelle Dorey*

Michelle Dorey

**David Turner**  
is the **Australia-wide Coordinator**

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Workshop: 8 Birch Avenue,  
DANDENONG VIC 3175  
(Open Fridays 9am-3:30pm and 1st Tuesday of the month 1pm-4pm)

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
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Phone: (08) 8255 0092  
Email: leila@chariot.net.au

**Brisbane, QUEENSLAND**  
**Yasmin Scott:**  
\*\*\* Please note Yasmin's new address for drop-offs.  
45 Randall Rd, WYNNUM WEST QLD 4178  
Ph: 0402 232 259  
(Yasmin requests that items be delivered in boxes wherever possible)

**Please Note:** You are no longer able to just drop off your donations to Debbi's home!! Please contact her to arrange a time for drop off (now only possible weekends or weekday evenings).



**Street Address:** 10 Stubbs Street AUBURN NSW 2144  
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**Michelle Dorey**  
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